1916

THE PRINCE OF GRAUSTARK

By George Barr McCutcheon

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Robin quickly opened the door.

"Yes, Marie," came in muffled tones

"Mme. Gaston returns long ago.

She is beside herself. She is like a

maniac. She has lost you; she cannot

explain to-to mademoiselle's father.

Mon dieu, when he met her unex-

pectedly in the hall he shouts. 'Where

is my daughter?' And poor madame

she has but to shiver and stammer

and-run away! Oui She dash out

Bedelia broke in upon this jumbled recitation. "Where have we been,

"We are just getting back to the

Inn of the Stars, sir-descending, you

The door slammed, and the final

block was covered in so short a time

that Robin's final kiss was still warm

on Bedelia's lips when the gallant cab rolled up to the portals of the

Mr. Blithers had had a trying day

of it. Besides other annoyances, his

wife raked him over the coals for

what she was pleased to call his

senseless persistence in the face of what she regarded as unalterable op-

position on the part of the cabinet

And so it was that Mr. Blithers,

feeling in need of cheer, arranged a

little dinner for that evening at the

Inn of the Stars. He invited his prin-

cipal London lawyer and his wife, also his secondary London lawyer,

his French lawyer and two attractive

young women who it appears were

related to the latter, although at

quite a distance, and then concluded

that it was best to speak to his own

she couldn't even think of going.

Maud might arrive that very night,

and she certainly was not going out

of the hotel with such an event as

"But Simpson's wife is coming,"

protested Mr. Blithers, "and Peri-

come. Jolly little affair to liven us

"I am quite positive that Lady Simpson will change her mind when

she hears that Pericault's cousins

are going," said Mrs. Blithers acidly.

the case, Lou, you'll have to come, if

only to save my reputation." he said,

the dinner, and so did Lady Simpson,

despite Pericault's cousins, and the

only ones in the party who appeared

to be uneasy were the cousins them-

in the very center of the dining room

and plates were laid for eight. At

the last minute Mr. Blithers ordered

"My daughter may put in an ap-

pearance." he explained to Lady

Simpson. "I have left word at the

hotel for her to come up if by any

chance she happens to arrive on the

"Haven't you heard from her, Mr.

Blithers?" inquired the austere lady, regarding the top of his head with

"We have," said he, "but not defi-

Two hours later Mr. Blithers look-

ed at his watch again. The party

was quite gay; at least 50 per cent

"That train has been in for an hour." said the host. "I guess Maud

didn't come. I left word for the hotel

"I also told 'em to send up any tele-

gram that might come," he informed

his wife, who merely lifted her eye-

brows. They had been lowered per-

ceptibly in consequence of the ebul-

The vivacious young women were

attracting a great deal of attention

to their table. Smart diners in the

immediate neighborhood appeared to

be a trifle shocked. Three dignified

looking gentlemen seated near the

"We really must be going," said

"All right," said Mr. Blithers. "Call

Out in the wide, brilliantly lighted

foyer a few late stayers were wait-

ing for their conveyances to be an-

nounced. As the four departing mem-

hers of the Blithers party grouped

themselves near the big doors, impa-

tient to be off, a brass buttoned boy

came up and delivered a telegram to

He was on the point of tearing open

the envelope when his eyes fell upon

two people who had just entered the

hall from without, a man and woman

clad in raincoats. At the same in-

stant the former saw Mr. Blithers.

Clutching his companion's arm, he

directed her attention to the million-

"Now for it, Bedelia," he whispered

Bedelia gazed calmly at Mr. Bith-

ers, and Mr. Blithers gazed blankly

at the Prince of Graustark. Then the

great financier bowed very deeply

He received no response to his po-

lite greeting, for the prince was star-

ing at Bedelia as if stupefied. The

millionaire's face was very red with

"He-he doesn't recognize you,

"Who?" she asked, her eyes search-

ing the room with an eager, inquir-

She gave him a ravishing, delight-

"Oh, it is so wonderful, Robin.

mortification as he turned it away.

"Good evening, prince!"

gasped Robin in amazement.

"Your father," he said.

to call me up if she arrived."

ience of Pericault's cousins.

door got up and left the room.

Mrs. Blithers nervously.

the cars up, waiter."

the host.

aire.

excitedly.

ing look

and called out:

The millionaire's table was placed

"I didn't think it of Pericault."

He thought for a moment. "If that's

cault's cousins. Certainly you must gled against joy.

wife about the little affair. She said

into the rain! It is terrible. She"-

Robin? Where are we now?"

"Where are we, Hobbs?"

might say, sir," said Hobbs.

"Drive on, confound you."

Inn of the Stars.

and house of nobles.

that in prospect.

selves.

nitely."

disorderly.

evening train."

an illy directed lorgnon.

up a bit. Now, Lou"-

"Wha-what is it?"

from the depths of the cab.

(Continued.) "The most distant spot in the world would not have been too far away to cause an instant's hesitation on my part," said he, dropping into the hair opposite her.

But your personal affairs - your miness," she protested. "Can you neglect it so"-"My business is to find happiness," said he. "I should be neglecting it

indeed if I failed to pursue the only means of attaining it. You are happiness, Bedelia." What would you sacrifice for happiness?" she asked softly.
"All else in the world," he replied

steadily. "If I were a king my realm should go if it stood between me and -you, Bedella."

"Walt-wait just for a moment," she said, with difficulty steadying her voice. "This night may see the end of our adventure. Rex. Let us think well before we say that it is over. I know, if you do not, that a great deal depends upon what we are to say to each other tonight. You will ask me to be your wife. Are you sure that you appreciate all that it means to you and to your future if I should say yes to that dear ques-He looked at her intently. "What

do you know, Bedelia?" "I know that you are the Prince of Graustark and that it is ordained that you shall wed one whose station is the equal of your own. You must think well, dear Rex, before you ask Bedelia Guile to be your wife." "You know that I am"—he began

dully, and then stood up, leaning far over the table, a penetrating look in "How long have you known, Bede-

"Since the second day out on the Jupiter," she replied serenely. He slowly resumed his seat, overwhelmed. She had played with him. She had defled him!

"I know what you are thinking. Rex." she said, almost pleadingly. "You are thinking ill of me, and you are unjust. It was as fair for me as it was for you. We played a cautious game. You set about to win my love as you saw fit, my friend, and am I to be condemned if I exercised the same privilege?"

He gave a great sigh of relief. "You are right," he said. "It is my turn to confess. I have known for many days that you are not Bedelia Guile. We are quits." She laughed softly.

an't matter," he whispered hearsely. "I don't care what happens to me, Bedelia, I-I shall never give you up. You are worth all the kingdoms in the world. You are the loveliest, most adorable"-

"Hush! Mrs. Gaston is inside," she informed him quickly. "I do not come alone. An hour ago the inn became quite impossible as a trysting place. the number increased to nine. A small party from the Regengetz who is giving the dinner? The great and only William W. Blithers, sir, who comes to put an obstinate daughter upon the throne of Graustark,

whether she will or no.' "Did he see you?" cried Robin. "No," she answered, with a mischievous gleam in her eyes

"Hide and seek is a bully game," said he. "It can't last much longer Bedella. I think it is only right that we should go to your father and tell him that-everything is all right. There is nothing to be gained by She was watching him closely.

"Are you, after all is said and done sure that you want to marry the daughter of William Blithers, in the face of all the bitter consequences that may follow such an act?"

"Are you through?" he asked, transfixing her with a determined look. Well, then, I'll answer you. I do want to marry you, and, more than that, I mean to marry you. I

"You may tell me. Robin, as we are driving back to the inn togethernot here, not now," she said softly, the lovelight in her eyes. Happiness blurred his vision.

Long afterward, as they were preparing to leave Pingari's, she said to "My father is at the inn, Robin. I

ran away from him tonight because I wanted to be sure that our adventure was closed before I revealed myself to him. Take me to him now, Robin, and make the miracle complete. His fingers caressed her warm

cheek as he adjusted the collar of the long coat about her throat and chin. Her eyes were starry bright, her red lips were parted.

"My princess!" he whispered tenderly. "My princess!" "My prince!" she said, so softly

that the words barely reached his ears. "We have proved that Leve is the king. He rules us all. He laughs at, locksmiths-and fathers-but he does not laugh at sweethearts. Come,

'Mme. Gaston returns long ago. He handed her into the cab a moment later and drew the long, deep breath of one who goes down into deep water. Then he followed after her. The attendant closed the door.

Hobbs was a dependable fellow. He drove far out of the way, passing the Inn of the Stars twice at a lively clip, and might have gone on forever in his shuttlecock enterprise had not

him from the sidewalk. "Stop! Attendez! You! Man!" He pulled up with a jerk. The dripping figure of Marie ran up from be-

"My mistress? Where is she?"

panted the girl. "In heaven," said Hobbs promptly, ed smile. whereupon Marie pounded on the have fooled you completely. That in the present or in any future war. glass window of the cab.

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loctor Pierce's Pleasant Pellets Regulate and Invigorate *omach, Liver and Bowels. Sugar-coated Tiny Granules.

man isn't my father."

of his head?"

softly:

Mrs. Blithers relented. She went to ed boy picked it up and handed it to

bergen, dear."

"That's Mr. Blithers, or I am as

"Is it, indeed? The one reading the

telegram, with his eyes sticking out

Robin's head was swimming. "Good

"Ah!" she cried, with a little shrick

One of the three distinguished men

who had been remarked by Mrs.

Blithers now separated himself from

his companions and approached the

couple. He was a tall, handsome man

of fifty. Although his approach was

swift and eager, there were in his face

the signs of wrath that still strug-

upon the prince's rigid arm and said

"My father is the Prince of Daws-

A crumpled telegram dropped from

Mr. Blithers' palsied hand to the

floor as he turned a white, despairing

face upon his wife. The brass button-

We were married in Vienna today. After

all I think I shall not care to see Graus-tark. Channie is a dear. I have promised him that you will take him into the busi-

[THE END.]

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n most of the large cities of the coun-

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aymen with the handling of a mili-

tary rifle. The movement is said to

have originated in Cleveland and the

the Pittsburgh regiment is the first to

complete organization. Col. T. J. Keenan of this city took

up the matter and presented it to the

esult that these bodies pledged sup-

port to it throughout the country. In

this city almost 600 men have enrolled

for the movement. It is not to be a

uniformed or drilled body, according

It is planned to have a camp at the

range, which is a few miles from the

throughout the summer. At this camp

members may go and come as they de-

sire, being under no rigid discipline.

expert marksman.

have been abundant.

to Washington:

beyond being required to qualify as an

Employers of men desirous of par-

icipating in this movement have ex-

ressed a willingness to give em-

of assistance from regular service men

The Pittsburgh regiment has been

telegram which Colonel Keenan sent

case of national need, the services of

the first battalion of the first regiment

of American Riflemen. All the mem-

bers of the organization are of mili-

tary age, and have pledged themselves

to qualify at once, and at their own

expense, as marksmen with the regu-

ation rifle of the United States army.

If a million Americans will so qualify

during the next few months your plea.

for national preparedness will, supple-

menting Congressional action, have

met with a practical popular response

that will help to insure our country

against enforced participation either

"I am authorized to offer you, in

which will be established

Young Men's Business Clubs, with the

lea was disseminated from there but

Mrs. Blithers. It was from Maud:

ness as a partner. We are at the Br

turned quickly, laid her hand

blind as a bat," he exclaimed.

heavens, Bedelia, what are you"

of joy. "Seel There he is!"

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MAE BUTLER'S APPEAL FROM PROBATE.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY,

SUPERIOR COURT. Bridgeport, Feb. 29, A. D., 1916. Upon the complaint of the said Mae Butler being an appeal from the Probate Court of the Wistrict of Bridgeport, in determining the distributees and legatees of the estate of Charles E. Butler, late of Bridgeport, deceased, now pending before this court, having been returned thereto, on the first Tuesday of Feb. 1916. It appearing to and being found by this court that Lucy Washington, an appellee is now residing in Stratford, Connecticut, and that notice of the pendency of the complaint was given as required by order of notice hereto-

fore issued, and now the plaintiff asks for a further order of notice in the Therefore Ordered, that notice of the pendency of said complaint be given by publishing this order in the Bridgeport Farmer, a newspaper printed in Bridgeport, two times successively, before the 14th day of March, A. D., 1916 or by leaving a copy of said complaint and this order of notice with the said Lucy Washingregiment of American Riflemen has been organized in this city. The movenent is forwarded by the Vouce transfer of said complaint and this city. day of March, A. D., 1916, in the post-

> By the court, FRED W. TRACY,
> Assistant Clerk of the Superior Court
> for Fairfield County. S 13 b*

office, postage paid, at Bridgeport di-

rected to said Lucy Washington by

registered letter at Stratford, Conn.

NOTICE.

Hearings de Establishment of Grade on Sundry Streets. At a meeting of the Common Coun-il of the City of Bridgeport, held March 6, 1916, the following resoluto the promoters. All expense will be tion was adopted, to wit:

borne by the individuals, and the time Resolved, That the Clerk be and required for qualification as a memhereby is directed to notify the ownber of the organization is not more ers of property and persons in interthan one hour a week on a rifle range est to appear before this Common Council at the Common Council Room, that it at the disposal of the organi-City Hall, Bridgeport, Conn., on Mon-day, March 20, 1916 at 8 o'clock in Among the members of the local the evening and be heard in relation to the establishment of grades on the body are a number of National Guardsmen, who have been sharpfollowing streets, to wit: shooters and fi,rst class marksmen for Park Street, from Spring street to ears, and several retired army officers Huntington Road. who have offered their services in Hastings Street, between Rockland coaching and instruction with the mil-

nd Coggswell streets.

York street, its entire length. J. ALEX, H. ROBINSON,

NOTICE.

Hearing de Construction of Sewers in Sundry Streets. At a meeting of the Common Council of the City of Bridgeport, held ployes an opportunity to take ad-vantage of the rifle range, and offers tion was adopted, to wit:

Resolved, That the Clerk be and hereby is directed to notify the own-Colonel Keenan expresses the opin-on that one million men would be participating in this training dur— cil at the Common Council Room, the summer, laying a foundation for a City Hall, Bridgeport, Conn., on Monparticipating in this training durday, March 20, 1916, at 8 o'clock in trained citizen soldiery, against times the evening and be heard in relation to the construction of sewers in the following streets: offered to President Wilson in this

Sanitary sewer in Sterling Place, entire length. Sanitary sewer in Lorraine street, entire length. Sanitary sewer in Herkimer street,

entire length.
Sanitary sewer in Garfield avenue, nue from Madison avenue westerly westerly about 650 feet. Sanitary sewer in Boston avenue, from Boston Terrace to Bishop ave-

Sanitary sewer in Pixlee Place, from Boston avenue to Barnum avenue. Storm water sewer in Boston avenue, from Boston Terrace to Success

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